

{25 August, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

Assistance, besides urging State Governments to utilise the allocated amount in time.

STATEMENT

Table-A

Special Central Assistance to Special Component Plan—Releases and Utilisations: As reported by the States during 1997-98 to 1999-2000

(Rs. lakhs)

States/UTs	1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000	
	Released	Utilised	Released	Utilised	Released	Utilised
1. Assam	142.18	112.20	596.66	362.00	695.31	440.00
2. Manipur	6.58	6.58	10.62	8.43	12.54	7.25
3. Sikkim	4.44	4.44	4.03	6.12	22.37	5.50
4. Tripura	106.28	106.50	108.72	102.99	159.14	164.87

Table-B

Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub Plan (TSP)—Releases and Utilisations: As reported by the States during 1997-98 to 1999-2000

(Rs. lakhs)

States/UTs	1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000	
	Released	Utilised	Released	Utilised	Released	Utilised
1. Assam	1460.00	938.11	2069.56	2125.00	2443.50	Not received
2. Manipur	950.00	762.10	779.52	943.39	608.65	Not received
3. Sikkim	60.00	121.91	60.00	16.26	86.28	Not received
4. Tripura	885.00	835.00	977.77	791.77	831.57	Not received

India's Poverty and Unemployment

3384. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's poverty and unemployment do exist as they had existed

even five decades back inspite of various reforms and even the establishment of heavy industries in public and joint sectors could not save the situation;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government would now ensure that atleast the policies being framed for globalization and economic reforms would seriously adopt the betterment of agriculture, rural areas and backward areas; and

(d) if so, by when its results would be felt by the masses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Comparable estimates of poverty derived from the household level consumer expenditure data of the National Sample Survey Organisation based on the Expert Group method as adopted by the Planning Commission, and unemployment rate as per the comprehensive surveys on Employment and Unemployment conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation, are given below.

Percentage of People Below the Poverty Line

Year	Rural	Urban	Total
1973-74	56.4	49.0	54.9
1977-78	53.1	45.2	51.3
1983	45.7	40.8	44.5
1987-88	39.1	38.2	38.9
1993-94	37.3	32.4	36.0

Unemployment Rate and Rate of Growth of Employment(As per Usual Principal and Subsidiary Status)

	1972-73	1977-98	1983	1987-88	1993-94
Unemployment as percent to labour force	1.61	2.47	1.90	2.62	1.90

As can be seen, poverty has declined significantly during this period, and the unemployment rate has fluctuated over the years at a relatively low level within a fairly narrow band.

(b) In view of (a) above, does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Ninth Plan has singled out agriculture as an area of priority in view of its potential to generate substantially greater employment per unit of investment than most other sectors of the economy. The issue of backwardness and regional balance has always been a central concern of state policy. All available evidence suggests that reduction in regional disparities, particularly in average standards of living, may be better achieved through greater focus on agriculture and other rural activities. A thrust on agricultural development would necessarily imply accelerated growth of the relatively backward regions.

Impact of structural reforms policies in different sectors

3385. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the impact of structural reform policies adopted in different sectors since 1991 on poverty levels both urban and rural;

(b) whether it is a fact that structural reform policies have failed to make any appreciable dent on rural as well as urban poverty; and

(c) if so, how Government proposes to correct the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (c) The Planning Commission estimates poverty at national and state level from the large sample survey data on consumer expenditure collected by the National Sample Survey Organisation. These surveys are conducted once in approximately five years. The latest estimates of poverty are available for the year 1993-94 based on the National Sample Survey data on consumer expenditure of the 50th Round. Since 1991, the estimates of poverty are available for one year only. Hence, it is not possible to assess the impact of structural reform policies adopted in different sectors on